

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 /033 W

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R 081915Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8554

S E C R E T BRASILIA 2639

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), BR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: A. STATE 77237: USDAO/BRASILIA IR 68090090 75

1. A MAJOR REASON FOR CALLING THE DAO REPORT TO THE DEPT'S ATTENTION WAS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT GEISEL ATTACHES TO THE VISIT (AND INDIRECTLY THE SHARP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT WOULD CAUSE) AND HIS DESIRE THAT HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY BE HIGHLY SUBSTANTIVE. ON THIS POINT, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 4 THAT GEISEL WOULD SEE THE SECRETARY AT 10 AM APRIL 25 AND "WAS LEAVING HIS MORNING OPEN."

2. AS FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORTED REMARKS, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE ROLLING SERIES OF EVENTS IN THE PAST WEEKS HAVE SHAKEN UP THE BRAZILIAN LEADERSHIP (AND INFORMED BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION). AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REACTION, THERE HAS ARISEN DOUBT ABOUT THE WILL AND CAPACITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONFRONT THE SEA OF TROUBLES, PARTICULARLY THE ADVANCES OF WHAT THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY ARE WONT TO CALL THE "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT". IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT IN BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY DOCTRINE (OF WHICH MEIRA MATTOS IS A MAJOR ARCHITECT) BRAZIL IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MAJOR TARGET OF THE MOVEMENT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL WHO, LIKE MOST BRAZILIANS, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY TAKEN FOR GRANTED THE STRENGTH AND PERMANENCE OF THE US SHIELD AGAINST COMMUNISM, BEHIND

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WHICH BRAZIL CAN PURSUE FREELY ITS OWN NATIONAL PURPOSES,

WANTS TO ASSESS WITH THE SECRETARY THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THAT FUNDAMENTAL POSTULATE OF BRAZILIAN STRATEGIC THINKING. WE INFER FURTHER THAT THE ASSESSMENT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON GEISEL'S VIEW OF THE DESIRABILITY OR NECESSITY OF ANY CHANGES IN BRAZIL'S BASIC POLICIES.

THE REFERENCE TO "THE TERMS OF REFERENCE" FOR CORREA'S VISIT MAY INDICATE A DESIRE ON THE PART OF GEISEL TO HAVE CORREA FOLLOW UP WITH US MILITARY SECTORS THE APPRECIATION MADE AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, THAT IS, CORREA'S VISIT, IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT THE SECRETARY MAY SAY, MAY BE MORE SUBSTANTIVE AND LESS PROTOCOLARY THAN IT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN.

4. AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION, WE NOTE THAT BRAZIL'S LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE, IN POLITICAL AND SECURITY TERMS, STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. AS THE EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT, BRAZIL'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE LDC/THIRD WORLD/NON-ALIGNED GROUP SERVES ITS ECONOMIC PURPOSES, BUT ON "EAST-WEST", AS CONTRASTED TO "NORTH-SOUTH", ISSUES IT HAS ADHERED TO WESTERN POSITIONS. THEREFORE, THERE WOULD BE A STRONG INBUILT PREDISPOSITION TO TAKE DEFENSE MEASURES TO MEET A THREAT THAT WAS JUDGED TO BE GROWING. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A RESPONSE WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF MEIRA MATTOS' THEORY, WHICH IS, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, STILL JUST THAT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL02639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750122-0616
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750473/aaaacojz.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 77237:, 75 USDAO/BRASILIA IR 68090090, 75 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, BR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006